

2015

# M I C H I G A N

# ANTLERLESS DEER

# DIGEST

Application Period: July 15 - Aug. 15, 2015

## Reminders

- A base license is required for every resident and nonresident who hunts in Michigan. Hunters may purchase their antlerless deer license only after they have obtained a base license for the year.
- Applications are available for private-land antlerless deer licenses in any open DMU statewide. Any licenses that remain after the drawing will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. See pg. 8-9.
- **NEW** Chronic wasting disease (CWD), has been confirmed in a free-ranging deer in Michigan. See pgs. 6-7 for details.
  - A CWD Management Zone has been created for Clinton, Ingham, and Shiawassee Counties with additional restrictions. See pg. 22 for details.

Click Here  
To View Antlerless  
Deer License  
Drawing Results

Click Here  
To View Antlerless  
Deer License  
Quotas



**Drawing results posted Sept. 2**  
**Leftover Licenses on sale Sept. 9**  
Visit [www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings](http://www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings)

RAP (Report All Poaching): 800-292-7800

[www.michigan.gov/deer](http://www.michigan.gov/deer)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

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The Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) is a seven-member public body whose members are appointed by the governor and subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. The NRC has exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game and sportfish.

The commission conducts monthly, public meetings in locations throughout Michigan. Citizens are encouraged to become actively involved in these public forums. For more information visit [michigan.gov/nrc](http://michigan.gov/nrc).

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**NOTICE:** This brochure is not a legal notice or a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a condensed digest issued for hunter's convenience. Copies of Wildlife Conservation Orders, which contain complete listings of regulations and legal descriptions, are available on our website: [www.michigan.gov/dnr/laws](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/laws)

# MICHIGAN ANTLERLESS DEER DIGEST

## - CONTENTS -

<b>Deer Management in Michigan</b>	<b>3</b>
Goal 1	3
Goals 2-4	4
Goals 5-6	6
Chronic Wasting Disease Frequently Asked Questions	6
<b>Antlerless Deer Hunting</b>	<b>8</b>
Hunting Information	8
Hunt Unit Map	10
Licenses	12
Purchase Limits and Hunting Hours	14
Seasons and Methods	16
Special Hunting Seasons	18
<b>General Information</b>	<b>21</b>
Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance	22

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This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.



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Visit us at [michigan.gov/dnr](http://michigan.gov/dnr) and click on the red envelope to sign up for e-mail updates!

## Deer Management in Michigan

White-tailed deer are Michigan's official game mammal and are a highly recognizable and valued species to Michigan's citizens. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) developed a written plan in 2010 to provide strategic guidance to DNR staff and involved stakeholders for the management of white-tailed deer in Michigan. The DNR and the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) work together to achieve the six goals within the Michigan Deer Management Plan. This year the DNR will be updating the plan to assess our accomplishments over the past five years and refocus on areas of improvement, if needed. For more information on the Deer Management Plan please visit: [www.michigan.gov/deer](http://www.michigan.gov/deer).

### Goal 1:

#### **Manage Deer Populations at Levels that do not Degrade the Vegetation upon which Deer and Other Wildlife Depend**

In theory, larger deer populations produce better chances of seeing deer while hunting, and would therefore lead to happier hunters. In practice, deer populations that grow too high will eat themselves out of house and home. Deer numbers crash when this occurs, and habitat for other wildlife species is damaged as well. The DNR strives to sustain healthy deer populations compatible with healthy wildlife habitat and ample hunting opportunity.

Determining whether deer population management is meeting intended goals requires using the best available monitoring techniques. Michigan has some of the best historical data on deer in the country, provided through the cooperation of our hunting public.

#### **How can you help?**

- Return any harvest surveys you receive in the mail.
- If you don't receive a survey, submit your deer hunting and harvest information online.
- Bring your deer to a check station, and in return receive a "Successful Hunter Deer Management Cooperator" patch.
- Look for opportunities to assist with these efforts online, at [www.michigan.gov/deer](http://www.michigan.gov/deer).



## Goal 2:

### **Promote Deer Hunting to Provide Quality Recreational Opportunities, as the Primary Tool to Achieve Population Goals, and as an Important Social and Cultural Activity**

Michigan has a rich tradition of deer hunting within our history. This tradition has been passed on from generation to generation so much so that Michigan ranks in the top five states in the nation for the number of deer hunters, with over 700,000 people participating annually. Today's families, however, are often more pressed to find time and places to hunt. New opportunities that have allowed for more people to participate in hunting include:

- Special seasons for youth and hunters with disabilities.
- Development of the Mentored Youth Program.
- Expanded options to use crossbows.
- 2.2 million acres enrolled in the Commercial Forests Lands program.
- An expanded Hunter Access Program:  
[www.michigan.gov/hap](http://www.michigan.gov/hap)
- The Mi-HUNT information system to scout places to hunt:  
[www.michigan.gov/mihunt](http://www.michigan.gov/mihunt).
- For more background on these hunting opportunities and access programs, see the "Rules and Regs" and "Where Can I Hunt" links at [www.michigan.gov/hunting](http://www.michigan.gov/hunting).



## Goal 3:

### **Manage Habitat to Provide for the Long-term Viability of White-tailed Deer in Michigan while Limiting Negative Impacts to the Habitats of Other Wildlife Species.**

White-tailed deer evolved in a forested environment, and in modern times active forest management is an important tool for managing deer. Many other wildlife species also depend upon young forests, including both game (such as American woodcock and ruffed grouse) and non-game animals (such as golden-winged warblers and whip-poor-wills), but not all wildlife have the same habitat needs. The DNR strives to ensure healthy deer and deer habitat is sustained while also addressing conservation needs of all wildlife. Michigan deer habitat is enhanced through management of over 4 million acres of state-owned land (ranked 7th in the nation), and through private land programs on the other 80% of the state, including:

- Assessing hundreds of thousands of acres of state land each year for wildlife habitat conditions through the state forest compartment review process
  - In 2014 just over 395,000 acres were assessed
- Preparing thousands of acres each year for state timber sales to manage forests and benefit wildlife
  - In 2014 over 62,000 acres were prepared
- Planting and managing thousands of mast-bearing trees and shrubs on state land
  - In 2014 over 16,000 mast-bearing trees and shrubs were planted on state land
- Administering the Deer Private Land Assistance Network grant and the Deer Habitat Improvement Program Initiative grant.
  - In 2014 over 4,000 acres of deer-focused habitat management was completed through grant partnerships

For more information on the state forest compartment review process and about wildlife and forestry management on state-owned land, please see:

[www.michigan.gov/forestplan](http://www.michigan.gov/forestplan). Information on grant opportunities is available at: [www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants).

## Goal 4:

### Reduce Conflict Between Humans and Deer

While white-tailed deer are highly valued by Michigan residents, conflicts between deer and humans occur at various levels of intensity across the state. Damage to agricultural crops and trees, threats to human safety and property through deer-vehicle collisions, and destruction of landscaping and other property by deer in urban and suburban areas can be significant. The DNR considers these conflicts when deer management recommendations and policies are developed, and works to provide tools to directly address these impacts where they are greatest.

## Goal 5:

### Reduce the Threats and Impacts of Disease on the Wild Deer Population and on Michigan's Economy

The DNR is responsible for safeguarding the health of deer and other free-ranging wildlife of Michigan. Activities carried out as part of this responsibility include responding to public reports of sick or suspiciously dead wildlife, active disease testing to collect samples to monitor for diseases of concern or known to occur, and developing disease management plans to guide current or future efforts to contain, reduce, or prevent introduction of diseases. For more information on diseases of deer and other Michigan wildlife, see:

[www.michigan.gov/wildlifedisease](http://www.michigan.gov/wildlifedisease), [www.michigan.gov/bovinetb](http://www.michigan.gov/bovinetb), and [www.michigan.gov/cwd](http://www.michigan.gov/cwd).

## Goal 6:

### Enhance Public Engagement in and Awareness of Deer Management Issues and Knowledge of Deer Ecology and Management

Deer are one of the most recognizable and most frequently observed wildlife species in Michigan, and an informed public is important for creating a successful deer management program. The DNR and the State of Michigan have innovated new and diverse methods for providing public information and responding to public inquiries. These include:

- Working with partners in the news media.
- Establishing multiple social media platforms
- Pioneering the govDelivery system for subscribing to updates regarding topics of greatest interest.
- Gathering ongoing, informed input on deer management, through regional Deer Advisory Teams.

Visit the following links to connect with the DNR:

- [www.michigan.gov/socialmedia](http://www.michigan.gov/socialmedia)
- [www.facebook.com/michigandnr](https://www.facebook.com/michigandnr)
- [www.youtube.com/user/MichiganDNR](https://www.youtube.com/user/MichiganDNR)
- [twitter.com/MichiganDNR](https://twitter.com/MichiganDNR)
- [twitter.com/MichiganDNR\\_UP](https://twitter.com/MichiganDNR_UP)
- [twitter.com/MDNR\\_wildlife](https://twitter.com/MDNR_wildlife)
- “Michigan Deer Management Plan” section at [www.michigan.gov/deer](http://www.michigan.gov/deer)

## Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Frequently Asked Questions

### What is CWD?

CWD is a neurological (brain and nervous system) disease found in deer, elk, and moose, otherwise known as cervids. The disease belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) or prion diseases. The disease attacks the brains of infected animals and produces small lesions that result in death. While CWD is similar to mad cow disease in cattle and scrapie in sheep, there is no known relationship between CWD and any other TSE of animals or people. For more information on CWD, please visit [www.michigan.gov/cwd](http://www.michigan.gov/cwd).

### Where has CWD been found?

A total of 23 states and 2 Canadian provinces have found CWD in either free-ranging or captive cervids. In August 2008 Michigan confirmed a case of CWD in a privately owned cervid operation in Kent County. In April 2015, a free-ranging white-tailed deer was confirmed in Ingham County.

### How is CWD transmitted?

CWD is transmitted both directly through animal-to-animal contact as well as indirectly through a contaminated environment. Previous studies have

shown that CWD prions exist in the saliva, urine, blood, and feces of infected cervids. Additionally, a study from the University of Wisconsin suggests that the CWD prion can remain indefinitely in certain types of soil, and binding to soil dramatically increases the infectiousness of CWD prions.

### **How can you tell if a deer has CWD?**

Infected animals may not show any symptoms of the disease for a long period of time, even years. Nevertheless, they are infectious to other cervids. In the later stages of the disease, infected animals begin to lose bodily functions and display abnormal behavior such as staggering. Animals may have an exaggerated wide posture, or may carry the head and ears lowered. Infected animals will appear in poor body condition, with drooling or excessive salivation apparent. Note that these symptoms may also be characteristic of diseases other than CWD.

### **Does CWD pose a health risk to humans?**

CWD has never been shown to cause illness in humans. For more than two decades CWD has been present in free-ranging populations of mule deer and elk in Colorado. During this time, there has been no known occurrence of a human contracting any disease from eating CWD infected meat. However, public health officials recommend that people and domestic animals not consume meat from deer that test CWD-positive. Some simple precautions should be taken when field dressing deer in the CWD Management Zone (see pg. 22):

- Wear rubber gloves when field dressing your deer.
- Bone out the meat from your deer.
- Minimize the handling of brain and spinal tissues.
- Wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing is completed.
- Avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils and lymph nodes of harvested animals. (Normal field dressing coupled with boning out of a carcass will essentially remove all of these parts.)
- Request that your animal is processed individually, without meat from other animals being added to meat from your animal
- To protect healthy deer, dispose of all parts, especially brain and spinal tissues, in your garbage or landfill.

For more information about how Michigan is responding to CWD in Michigan's free-ranging deer population and prevention in privately owned deer and elk facilities, see [www.michigan.gov/cwd](http://www.michigan.gov/cwd).

### **What should I do if I see a deer that shows CWD symptoms?**

You should accurately document the location of the animal and immediately call the Report All Poaching (RAP) Line (1-800-292-7800). Do not attempt to contact, disturb, kill, or remove the animal.

## 2015 Hunting Information

An antlerless deer license entitles residents and nonresidents 10 years of age and older to take an antlerless deer, or a deer with antlers less than three inches in length, within the deer management unit (DMU) specified on the license.

License availability is limited by antlerless deer license quotas established for each DMU. **Hunters may apply for one license through the drawing, or wait to purchase leftover licenses after the drawing, if available.** Quotas are available at [www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings](http://www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings).

There are two types of antlerless deer hunting licenses:

1. A **public-land antlerless deer license** is valid for taking antlerless deer from public lands (including state, federal, and county lands) and required to hunt Commercial Forest lands.
  - Public-land hunt numbers begin with 1. Example: To buy a public land license for DMU 034, purchase hunt number 1034.
2. A **private-land antlerless deer license** is valid for taking antlerless deer from privately owned lands with permission of the landowner. The phone number of the landowner is required.
  - Private-land hunt numbers begin with 2. Example: To buy a private land license for DMU 034, purchase hunt number 2034.

A base license is required for every resident and nonresident who hunts in Michigan. Hunters may purchase their antlerless deer license only after they have obtained a base license for the year. **An application may be purchased prior to obtaining a base license.**

You must be at least 10 years of age by the time an antlerless deer license is purchased. **Exception: Hunters 9-16 years of age may purchase one junior antlerless deer license without application from July 15 - Aug. 15. A youth 9 years of age must turn 10 by Sept. 26, 2015 to qualify. Junior antlerless deer licenses are not subject to license quotas but are only available in DMUs where regular antlerless licenses are available.**

For license costs, see pg. 12.

Antlerless deer licenses are valid during all deer seasons with hunting equipment appropriate for the season and hunting zone.

## How to Apply for a Limited-License Hunt

1. Look at the map on pg. 10 and choose a DMU you wish to hunt.
2. You may apply only once. Hunters must choose to apply for either a public-land or private-land license (not both).
  - Public-land hunt numbers begin with 1, private-land hunt numbers begin with 2. Scroll down through the hunt choice list to find the hunt number you wish to apply for.
  - If hunting Commercial Forest land you will need a public-land license
  - If hunting private land you will need the landowner's phone number within that DMU.
  - License quotas are available at [www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings](http://www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings)
3. Apply for your license at a license agent, DNR Customer Service Center, or online at [www.mdnr-elastic.com](http://www.mdnr-elastic.com). It costs \$5 to apply. You will need one of the following forms of customer identification:
  - Valid Michigan driver's license
  - State of Michigan ID card (issued by the Secretary of State)
  - DNR Sportcard (issued through license agents or at [www.mdnr-elastic.com](http://www.mdnr-elastic.com)).

### IMPORTANT:

You are responsible for submitting a valid application and obtaining a DNR application receipt that states your customer ID and hunt choice. Do not accept a receipt that is not legible. **Check this receipt for accuracy and retain as proof that you applied. Ensure any application errors are corrected prior to the application deadline.** Applicants who submit an invalid application will be ineligible for the drawing.

- For application assistance, call 517-284-WILD (9453).
- You are responsible for obtaining your drawing results online.

**Drawings results and leftover license information will be posted at [www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings](http://www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings) on Sept. 2.**

## APPLY TODAY

**for a multi-species hunt and prize package valued at over**

**\$4,000!**

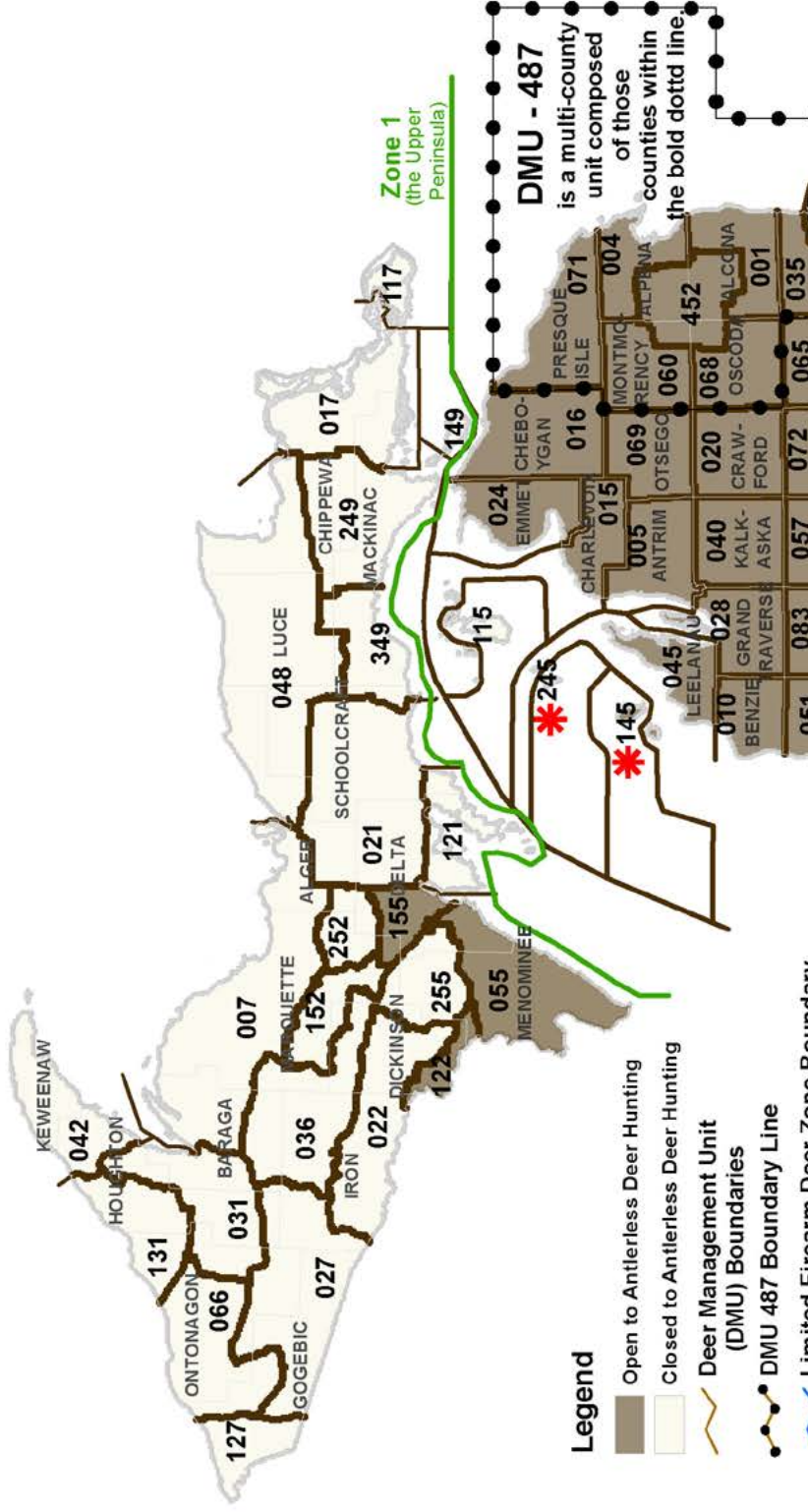
**Each application only \$5.**

**Visit [www.michigan.gov/puremichiganhunt](http://www.michigan.gov/puremichiganhunt)**

PURE MICHIGAN  
HUNT

## 2015 Deer Management Units (DMUs)

For detailed descriptions of unit boundaries, go online to [www.michigan.gov/dnr/laws](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/laws) or contact a DNR Customer Service Center.



Zone 2  
Zone 3

- determines what type of firearm is allowed, and replaced the "Rifle and Shotgun Zones"

## Hunting &amp; Trapping Zone 1,2,3 Boundary

- Special Deer Hunt DMU's with unique procedures and permits. See current year *Hunting and Trapping digest* "Special Deer Hunt" section for details.**



**DMU 333**

The Core CWD Area, encompasses those townships (Lansing, Meridian, Williamstown, Delhi, Alaiedon, and Wheatfield in Ingham County; DeWitt and Bath in Clinton County; and Woodhull in Shiawassee County) closest to where the CWD positive deer was located.

- Unlimited antlerless deer license quota
- The deer license or deer combo licenses may be used to harvest antlerless or antlered deer within DMU 333 during firearm and muzzleloading seasons.

**DMU 487**

Is a private-land multi-county DMU created to address bovine tuberculosis in the deer herd.

- Private-land DMU 487 licenses are valid in all seven counties
- Public-land licenses are sold for individual DMUs within DMU 487
- The deer license or deer combo licenses may be used to harvest antlerless or antlered deer within DMU 487 during firearm and muzzleloading seasons.

License Purchase

If you are selected in the drawing or wish to obtain a leftover license, you may purchase online at [www.mdnr-elicense.com](http://www.mdnr-elicense.com) or from any license agent. **Individuals who purchase a license online will receive their license by mail within seven days.** If you do not receive your license, contact customer service at 517-284-6057.

- The telephone number of the private landowner for a private-land license is required.
- Make sure the information on your license is accurate.
- **See pg. 14 for license purchase limits.**
- Licenses may not be altered or transferred. Purchase of a license certifies that you meet applicable residency and hunter-safety requirements.

When hunting, you must carry your antlerless deer license and the identification used to purchase that license, and present both upon demand of a Michigan conservation officer, a tribal conservation officer, or any law enforcement officer.

A base license is required for every resident and nonresident who hunts in Michigan. Hunters may purchase their antlerless deer license, only after they have obtained a base license for the year. An application may be purchased prior to obtaining a base license. Hunters are encouraged to carry their base license at all times when hunting.

	Cost				
Required Licenses by Title and Age	Up to Age: 9	Junior Age: 10-16	Resident Age: 17+	Resident Senior Age: 65+	Nonresident* Age: 17+
Mentored Youth License	\$7.50	--	--	--	--
Application for License Drawing	--	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Base License	--	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$5.00	\$151.00
Antlerless Deer License	--	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00**

\* Nonresidents under 17 years of age may purchase a resident base license.

\*\* Nonresident first antlerless deer license is \$20, additional antlerless deer licenses are \$170 each.

Active-Duty U.S. Military Personnel and Michigan Veterans with Disabilities

Leftover licenses are available to active-duty military, who have maintained resident status, and qualifying disabled veterans, beginning Sept. 9, free of charge. The regular price applies to licenses obtained through the drawing.

Hunting license fees are established by the Legislature. The DNR has authority to discount antlerless deer licenses.

- Antlerless deer licenses are discounted 40 percent in DMUs 001, 004, 019, 033, 035, 060, 068, 071, 078, 135, 333, 452, and 487, where TB and CWD have been documented in the Lower Peninsula.

If you have any license questions, please call 517-284-6057.

## Leftover Licenses

There is no guarantee that leftover licenses will be available for any DMU. Leftover antlerless deer licenses that are available will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis beginning Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Licenses will be sold until the quota is met in each DMU. Current leftover license availability may be viewed at [www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings](http://www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings).

Active-duty U.S. military personnel who have maintained resident status, and qualifying Michigan veterans with disabilities may obtain leftover licenses, free of charge.

## Apprentice Hunting License

A person who does not have a hunter safety certificate and is 10 years of age or older may purchase a base apprentice hunting license. An apprentice hunter may purchase this license for two license years before he or she must successfully complete a hunter safety course. The base apprentice hunting license is available to residents and nonresidents.

When afield, an apprentice hunter must be accompanied by someone 21 years of age or older who possesses a regular current-year hunting license for the same game as the apprentice. For apprentices 10-16 years of age, the accompanying hunter must be the apprentice's parent, guardian, or someone designated by the parent or guardian. "Accompanied by" requires the accompanying hunter to be able to come to the immediate aid of the apprentice and stay within a distance that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and verbal contact. A person may accompany no more than two apprentice hunters while hunting.

## Mentored Youth Hunting (MYH) Program

Youth hunters up to 9 years of age may hunt deer, turkey, and small game, trap furbearers, and fish for all species with a licensed mentor. The mentor must be at least 21 years of age and hunter safety-certified. The MYH license is a "package" license that includes a base license and entitles the youth to hunt, trap and fish for the species listed above during all open seasons for the species. Additional restrictions apply; complete program details can be found in the Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest, or online at [www.michigan.gov/mentoredhunting](http://www.michigan.gov/mentoredhunting).

The deer kill tag issued under the mentored youth hunting license is valid for any deer, except during antlerless-only seasons when only an antlerless deer may be taken (in open DMUs). If you turn 10 years of age after purchasing the MYH package and wish to purchase antlerless deer licenses, you must first upgrade your MYH license to a junior base license (or apprentice junior base license). There is no charge to upgrade an MYH license to a base license.

after  
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for the

Zone A  
+ 0  
minutes

HURON



## Zone A Hunting Hours

2015	Sept.		One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset (adjusted for daylight-saving time)			
Date	A.M.	P.M.				
19	6:46	8:05				
20	6:47	8:04				
	Oct.		Nov.		Dec.	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:59	7:44	6:35	5:56	7:12	5:31
2	7:00	7:42	6:37	5:55	7:13	5:30
3	7:01	7:41	6:38	5:53	7:14	5:30
4	7:02	7:39	6:39	5:52	7:15	5:30
5	7:04	7:37	6:40	5:51	7:16	5:30
6	7:05	7:36	6:42	5:50	7:17	5:30
7	7:06	7:34	6:43	5:49	7:18	5:30
8	7:07	7:32	6:44	5:48	7:19	5:30
9	7:08	7:31	6:45	5:46	7:20	5:30
10	7:09	7:29	6:47	5:45	7:20	5:30
11	7:10	7:27	6:48	5:44	7:21	5:30
12	7:12	7:26	6:49	5:43	7:22	5:30
13	7:13	7:24	6:50	5:42	7:23	5:30
14	7:14	7:22	6:52	5:41	7:24	5:30
15	7:15	7:21	6:53	5:41	7:24	5:30
16	7:16	7:19	6:54	5:40	7:25	5:31
17	7:17	7:18	6:55	5:39	7:26	5:31
18	7:18	7:16	6:57	5:38	7:26	5:31
19	7:20	7:14	6:58	5:37	7:27	5:32
20	7:21	7:13	6:59	5:36	7:28	5:32
21	7:22	7:11	7:00	5:36	7:28	5:33
22	7:23	7:10	7:01	5:35	7:29	5:33
23	7:24	7:08	7:03	5:34	7:29	5:34
24	7:26	7:07	7:04	5:34	7:30	5:34
25	7:27	7:05	7:05	5:33	7:30	5:35
26	7:28	7:04	7:06	5:33	7:30	5:36
27	7:29	7:03	7:07	5:32	7:31	5:36
28	7:30	7:01	7:08	5:32	7:31	5:37
29	7:32	7:00	7:10	5:31	7:31	5:38
30	7:33	6:59	7:11	5:31	7:31	5:38
31	7:34	6:57			7:31	5:39
2016	Jan.					
1	7:32	5:40				

Deer Hunting Seasons

Antlerless deer licenses are valid during all deer seasons with hunting equipment appropriate for the season and hunting zone.

Season	Location	Season Dates
Early Antlerless Firearm	Private land in select DMUs, see pg. 18	Sept. 19-20
Liberty Hunt	Statewide	Sept. 19-20
Independence Hunt	Private land statewide and certain public lands by application	Oct. 15-18
Archery*	Statewide	Oct. 1 - Nov. 14 Dec. 1 - Jan. 1
Regular Firearm	Statewide	Nov. 15-30
Muzzleloading	Zone 1 and 2	Dec. 4-13
	Zone 3	Dec. 4-20
Late Antlerless Firearm	Private land in select DMUs, see pg. 19	Dec. 21 - Jan. 1

\* A deer or deer combo license can be used to tag an antlerless deer during archery seasons in zones 2 and 3 only.

Tagging Option for Antlerless Deer Hunters

Deer hunters with a valid unused deer or deer combo license as well as an unused antlerless license for the DMU in which they are hunting may tag a male antlerless deer with the deer or deer combo tag. A male antlerless deer, often called a “button buck,” means a deer with antlers where the longest antler extends less than three inches above the skull.



## Hunting Methods

Antlerless deer may be harvested using hunting equipment appropriate for the season and hunting zone. See 2015 Hunting and Trapping Digest for more details.

### Youth

*On private land or Commercial Forest land:*

- All ages: may hunt deer using archery, crossbow, or firearm equipment.

*On public land:*

- 13 years of age or younger: may hunt deer using archery or crossbow equipment only.
- 14 years of age or older: may hunt deer using archery, crossbow, or firearm equipment.

All hunters under 17 years of age must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or someone designated by their parent or guardian; additional qualifications apply with the apprentice or mentored youth licenses; see pg. 13.

## Baiting

- Prohibited year-round in Alcona, Alpena, Clinton, Ingham, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Shiawassee counties.
- Baiting in the rest of the state is allowed in limited quantities from Sept. 15 - Jan. 1. Hunters may place no more than two gallons of any type of bait scattered across a minimum 10-foot by 10-foot area per hunting location.



## Special Hunting Seasons

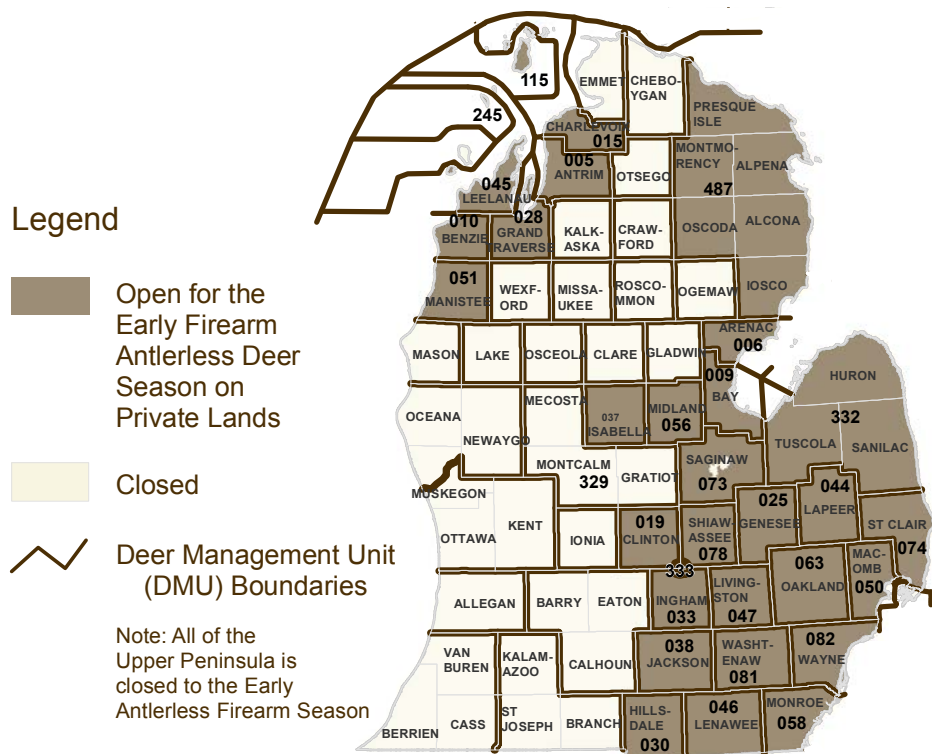
## Early and Late Antlerless Firearm Season

Hunters, 10 years of age and older, must possess a private-land antlerless deer license issued for the DMU upon which they are hunting, or a Deer Management Assistance (DMA) permit valid for that DMU for the early and late antlerless seasons. A deer kill tag issued under the mentored youth license must be used for an antlerless deer during the antlerless-only seasons.

All hunters are required to wear hunter orange and must have permission from the landowner or leaseholder before hunting on private land. The telephone number of the private landowner is required to acquire a private-land antlerless deer license.

## Early Antlerless Firearm

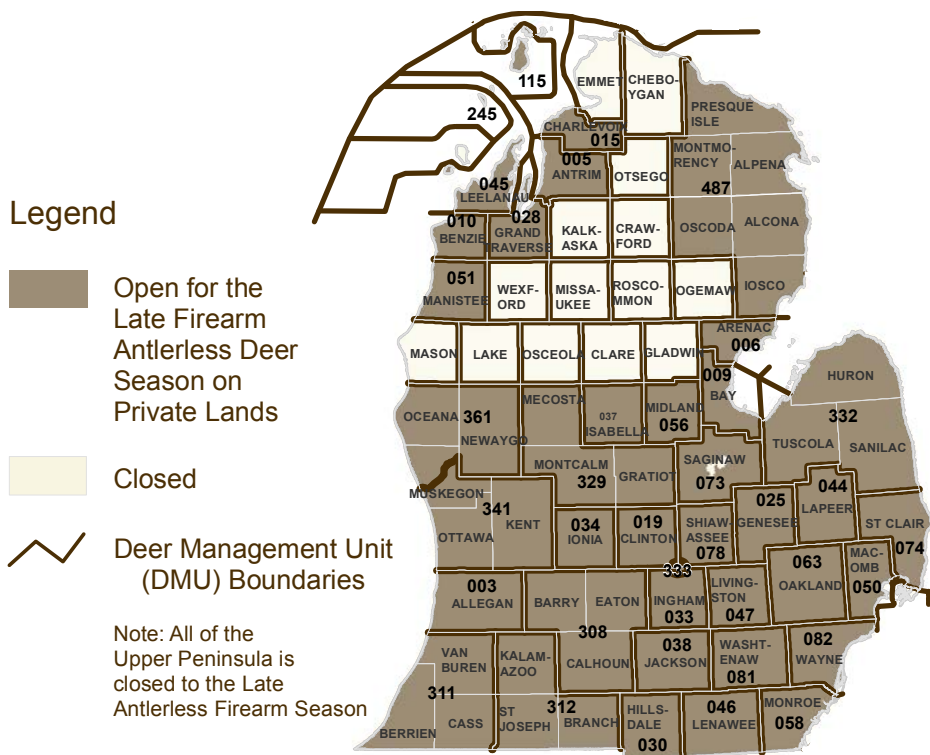
- Season: Sept. 19-20
- Open, on private lands only, within DMUs:





### Late Antlerless Firearm

- Season: Dec. 21, 2015 – Jan. 1, 2016
- Open, on private lands only, within DMUs:



### Liberty Hunt

This firearm deer hunt will take place on private or public lands in Michigan open to firearm deer hunting Sept. 19-20. Youth 16 years of age or younger may participate in this hunt along with eligible hunters with disabilities (see criteria below). Youth younger than 14 years of age may hunt with archery and crossbow on public or private land or with a firearm on private land only, regardless of license used. For youth 10-16 years of age, valid licenses include a deer, deer combo, or an antlerless deer license. Hunters under 10 years of age must be licensed through the mentored youth hunting program and accompanied by a qualified mentor.

During this hunt, a deer or deer combo license may be used for an antlered or antlerless deer. Antler Point Restrictions do not apply. An antlerless deer license or deer management assistance (DMA) permit may also be used to take one antlerless deer only, if issued for the area/land upon which hunting. **The bag limit for this season is one deer.** All hunters participating in this season must wear hunter orange.

To qualify as a hunter with disabilities, an individual must fit one of the following criteria:

- Be a veteran who has been determined to have 100-percent disability, or is rated as individually unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Have been issued a permit, by the DNR, to hunt from a standing vehicle
- Have been issued a permit by the DNR to hunt using a laser-sighting device
- Be blind: "Blind" means an individual who has a visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correction, or has a limitation of his or her field of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angular distance not greater than 20 degrees, as determined by the commission

### Independence Hunt

This firearm deer hunt will take place on private lands and some public lands requiring an access permit, (contact local offices to find out if they participate) from Oct. 15-18.

During this hunt, a deer or deer combo license may be used for an antlered or antlerless deer. Antler Point Restrictions do not apply. An antlerless deer license or deer management assistance (DMA) permit may be used to take one antlerless deer only, if issued for the area/land upon which hunting. **The bag limit for this season is one deer.** All hunters participating in this season must wear hunter orange.

To qualify an individual must fit at least one of the bulleted criteria listed above.

## Commercial Hunting Guides on State Land

All commercial hunting guides using state-owned land must receive written authorization from the DNR. Guides are required to meet the conditions of the written authorization. If you are a guide who utilizes state-owned lands, please visit [www.michigan.gov/statelandpermission](http://www.michigan.gov/statelandpermission). Commercial guiding on National Forest (NF) lands requires a special use permit. Applications can be obtained through any office or by calling - Hiawatha NF: 906-428-5800; Huron-Manistee NF: 231-775-5023; Ottawa NF: 906-932-1330.

## Online Hunter Harvest Surveys

Accurate and complete information on hunting activity is vital for sound wildlife management. Hunters are encouraged to report their hunting activity online after the season has ended at [www.michigan.gov/hunting](http://www.michigan.gov/hunting). These surveys are the same as those traditionally mailed to randomly selected hunters. The online reporting option now allows all hunters to participate.

## Precaution about Lead in Game Meat

Wildlife that are shot with bullets or pellets containing lead can have particles of lead remaining in the meat, some too small to be seen or felt. Lead can be harmful to humans and wildlife, even in very low amounts. If you have questions about the health effects of lead exposure from lead shot or lead fragments, call the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab at 517-336-5030 or find information at [www.michigan.gov/wdm](http://www.michigan.gov/wdm). You may also contact the Michigan Department of Community Health at 1-800-648-6942 or visit [www.michigan.gov/mdch](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch).

## Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance

In 2014, bovine tuberculosis (TB) was found in 12 wild white-tailed deer from five counties in Michigan: Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Presque Isle. Statewide 4,256 deer were tested. Since 1995, a total of 759 deer have been found positive from 209,789 deer sampled in Michigan. For more information on bovine TB in Michigan, visit [www.michigan.gov/bovinetb](http://www.michigan.gov/bovinetb).

The DNR is urging hunters to submit their deer's head for TB testing if it the deer was harvested in any one of the following 17 counties: Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Bay, Cheboygan, Crawford, Gratiot, Huron, Iosco, Midland, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon, and Saginaw. Hunters are asked to submit deer carcasses with chest lesions suspicious for TB from anywhere in the state. The list of deer check stations is available on the DNR website at [www.michigan.gov/deer](http://www.michigan.gov/deer). If you see a deer with this type of infection, please contact the DNR so the carcass and viscera, in addition to the head, can be examined. Hunters may check their deer or elk TB lab results at [www.michigan.gov/dnrlab](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrlab).

## Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance

In May 2015 the Michigan departments of Natural Resources (DNR) and Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) confirmed that a free-ranging deer in Meridian Township (Ingham County) tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD), a fatal neurological disease that affects white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk and moose. The following actions have been taken:

1. Completing a population survey in the area where the CWD-positive deer was found.
2. Establishing a Core CWD Area (DMU 333) consisting of Lansing, Meridian, Williamstown, Delhi, Alaiedon and Wheatfield townships in Ingham County; DeWitt and Bath townships in Clinton County; and Woodhull Township in Shiawassee County. Discounted and unlimited antlerless deer hunting licenses will be available. Mandatory checking of deer is required in this area during hunting seasons and restrictions apply to the movement of carcasses and parts of deer from within the Core CWD Area. Baiting and feeding deer in the Core CWD Area is prohibited along with salvaging road-killed deer.
3. Creating a CWD Management Zone, which includes Clinton, Shiawassee and Ingham counties. Voluntary checking of deer is encouraged during hunting season. Baiting and feeding deer in the CWD Management Zone is prohibited. Discounted antlerless licenses are available until quotas are met.

### What do I do if I harvest a deer in the Core CWD Area (DMU 333)?

- Hunters who harvest a deer in DMU 333 must register their deer at a DNR check station within 72 hours of the harvest. Instructions will be provided for hunters wishing to transport their deer to a taxidermist or processor outside of DMU 333. Please visit [www.michigan.gov/deer](http://www.michigan.gov/deer) for check station locations.

### Can I still submit a head for CWD testing if I'm hunting outside DMU 333?

Yes, while testing is not required outside of DMU 333, we recommend anyone who is concerned that the deer they harvested (especially in Ingham, Clinton, and Shiawassee counties) may have CWD to submit it for testing at their nearest DNR check station.

### How do I dispose of a deer harvested in the area?

Hunters processing deer harvested in the 9-township area should dispose of the leftover parts in their garbage or a landfill. Leftover parts from an infected deer, especially heads and backbones, contain CWD prions and if discarded on the landscape, those prions can spread disease to healthy deer.

## Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD)

EHD is an acute, infectious, often fatal disease contracted by wild ruminants but most commonly affecting white-tailed deer. EHD is transmitted via the bite of infected midges, gnats, and other biting flies. The disease cannot be transmitted from one animal to another by direct contact, and it is not transmissible to humans. EHD typically is detected in deer in late summer and early fall, and sick and dead deer are often found near water.

Deer infected with the virus appear lethargic, disoriented, lame and unresponsive to humans. As the disease progresses, the deer may have blood-tinged discharge from the nose and mouth along with sores in the mouth and a swollen tongue. Deer usually develop a high fever (they seek out water to decrease their body temperature - that is why they are found near or in water). Blood is found in the body cavities.

To report a deer with EHD symptoms, contact the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab at 517-336-5030 or the nearest DNR Customer Service Center. After hours, reports should be made to the DNR RAP line at 800-292-7800.

## Dioxin Advisory Information

Health risk assessors from the DNR and the Michigan Department of Community Health determined that samples of wild game taken in 2003, 2004 and 2007 from the floodplains of the Tittabawassee River and Saginaw River downstream of Midland contain high levels of dioxin and dioxin-like compounds in muscle meats, skin and other consumable portions. Eating deer, turkey, squirrel, wood duck, or Canada geese that contain dioxin at these levels could result in adverse health effects, particularly for children and women of childbearing age. Specific information can be found at [www.michigan.gov/dioxin](http://www.michigan.gov/dioxin).



The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 created a funding mechanism for state wildlife agencies to restore and manage their wildlife resources. A federal excise tax on firearms and ammunition, bows and arrows is collected by the Internal Revenue Service and apportioned to states through a formula based on the number of licensed hunters and the size of each state.

Eligible states are those that have passed laws preventing the use of hunting license fees for any purpose other than managing the state's wildlife. The federal excise tax, along with hunter license fees, are used to acquire lands; protect, restore and manage wildlife habitats; manage wildlife populations; conduct wildlife research and surveys; provide hunter access; and develop, operate and maintain facilities and infrastructure necessary to manage wildlife resources. Additionally, a specific portion of the federal excise tax is dedicated for hunter education, and for developing and managing shooting ranges. Since its inception in 1937, Michigan's share of the Wildlife Restoration Funds has reached over \$275 million.

## Need information?

Contact a Customer Service Center listed below, open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or visit us online.

### Baraga

427 US-41 North  
Baraga, MI 49908  
906-353-6651

### Bay City

3580 State Park Drive  
Bay City, MI 48706  
989-684-9141

### Cadillac

8015 Mackinaw Trail  
Cadillac, MI 49601  
231-775-9727

### Detroit Metro

1801 Atwater St.  
Detroit, MI 48207  
313-396-6890

### Gaylord

1732 W. M-32  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
989-732-3541

### Marquette

1990 US-41 South  
Marquette, MI 49855  
906-228-6561

### Newberry

5100 M-123  
Newberry, MI 49868  
906-293-5131

### Plainwell

621 N. 10th St.  
Plainwell, MI 49080  
269-685-6851

### Roscommon

I-75 & M-18 South,  
8717 N. Roscommon Rd.  
Roscommon, MI 48653  
989-275-5151

### Rose Lake\*

8562 E. Stoll Rd.  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
517-641-4903

(\*This is a field office)

## Helpful URLs:

Learn more about the DNR: [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)  
Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/michigandnr](http://www.facebook.com/michigandnr)  
Follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/mdnr\\_wildlife](http://www.twitter.com/mdnr_wildlife)



### Sign up for e-mail from the DNR!

Visit [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) and click on the red envelope.

### Direct DNR website URLs:

Hunting and Trapping: [www.michigan.gov/hunting](http://www.michigan.gov/hunting)  
Pure Michigan Hunt: [www.michigan.gov/puremichiganhunt](http://www.michigan.gov/puremichiganhunt)  
DNR Digests and Guides: [www.michigan.gov/dnrdigests](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrdigests)  
Deer: [www.michigan.gov/deer](http://www.michigan.gov/deer)  
Wild Turkeys: [www.michigan.gov/turkey](http://www.michigan.gov/turkey)  
Black Bear: [www.michigan.gov/bear](http://www.michigan.gov/bear)  
Wolf: [www.michigan.gov/wolves](http://www.michigan.gov/wolves)  
Elk: [www.michigan.gov/elk](http://www.michigan.gov/elk)  
Ducks and Geese: [www.michigan.gov/waterfowl](http://www.michigan.gov/waterfowl)  
Michigan Waterfowl Legacy: [www.michigan.gov/mwl](http://www.michigan.gov/mwl)  
Information and "How To" of Trapping and Fur Harvesting: [www.michigan.gov/trapping](http://www.michigan.gov/trapping)  
Mi-HUNT: [www.michigan.gov/mihunt](http://www.michigan.gov/mihunt)  
Explore Michigan's Wetland Wonders: [www.michigan.gov/wetlandwonders](http://www.michigan.gov/wetlandwonders)  
Public Hunting on Private Lands: [www.michigan.gov/hap](http://www.michigan.gov/hap)  
Invasive Species: [www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies](http://www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies)  
Shooting Ranges: [www.michigan.gov/shootingranges](http://www.michigan.gov/shootingranges)  
Emerging Diseases: [www.michigan.gov/wildlifedisease](http://www.michigan.gov/wildlifedisease)

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife Division

525 W. Allegan Street

P.O. Box 30444

Lansing, MI 48933

517-284-WILD (9453)